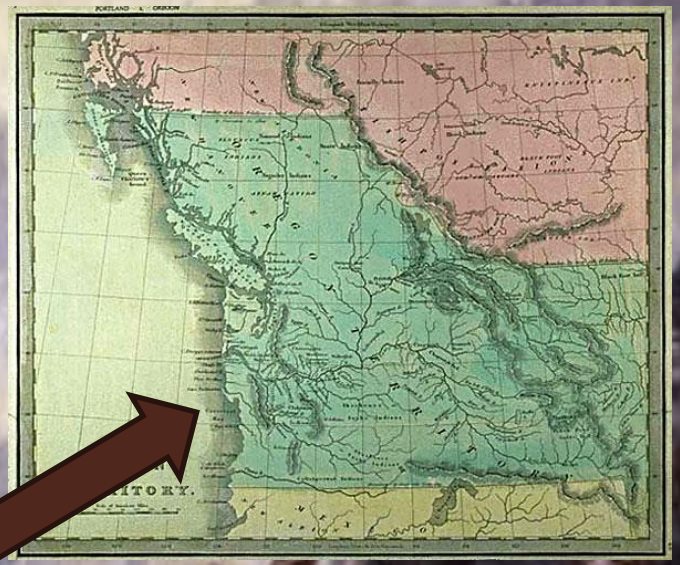
US-VA History SOL Review Materials America's "Manifest Destiny" and the Rise of Sectionalism, 1803 - 1848

The Louisiana Territory

- Thomas Jefferson purchased the *Louisiana Territory* in 1803 from Napoleon Bonaparte. Seeking only New Orleans, Americans acquired the entire Louisiana Territory for around $15 Million, just a few pennies per acre.
- Jefferson appointed *Meriwether Lewis and William Clark* to organize the *Corps of Discovery* – a group of several dozen men who explored the territory, met Native American tribes, mapped the region, collected samples of the flora and fauna, and claimed it for America.

The Louisiana Territory more than doubled the size of the United States in 1803, when it was purchased from France. The Lewis & Clark expedition – or, the Corps of Discovery – explored the region.

Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery



After traveling up the Missouri River all the way to it's source in the Rocky Mountains, the *Corps of Discovery* made portage across the Rockies and headed down the Columbia River – traveling with the current now, all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Americans claimed the Oregon Territory as a result of the expedition, a claim which became more legitimate after the War of 1812 ended with American victory over England, which also claimed the territory...

Sacajawea

When Lewis and Clark met Sacajawea, she was a teenage girl, a pregnant with the child of her husband, the French fur trader Toussaint Charbonneau. After giving birth to the child, Sacajawea joined the Corps of Discovery as a scout and translator. Since she was born in the Pacific Northwest – as a member of the Shoshone Tribe – one can legitimately claim that she was the only person on the expedition who actually knew where they were going!

Sacajawea leads the Corps of Discovery to the Pacific Northwest.

The War of 1812

- *James Madison* was the President during the War of 1812.
- The War of 1812 was caused by British interference with American shipping and trade. *The English impressed (kidnapped) our sailors and stole our cargo*.
- The British also occupied western forts, and encouraged Indians to attack Americans on the frontier.
- Western *"War Hawks"* favored the War of 1812 with England; New Englanders tended to oppose the War of 1812.

In general, Democratic-Republicans favored the War of 1812. Federalists, who favored both England and commerce, would have preferred to negotiate a treaty with the British. This would hurt the Federalist Party by the end of the war.

Results of the War of 1812

- After the War of 1812, American claims to the Pacific Northwest were more legitimate. After all, if the English could not defend the land, Americans claim to the region grew stronger.
- Many Native American tribes were forced West during the War of 1812. Americans began to move into the land in the Deep South, planting cotton in present day Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi.
- Americans also began moving into Florida during this period, despite the fact that the Spanish still claimed the region.

Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819

Florida was ceded to the United States in 1819 when the Spanish agreed to the *Adams-Onis Treaty*.

Americans had already begun moving into the region before a treaty was signed. The Seminole Wars of the late 1810s – successfully conducted by Andrew Jackson – had resulted in an American commitment to make the territory their own.

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823

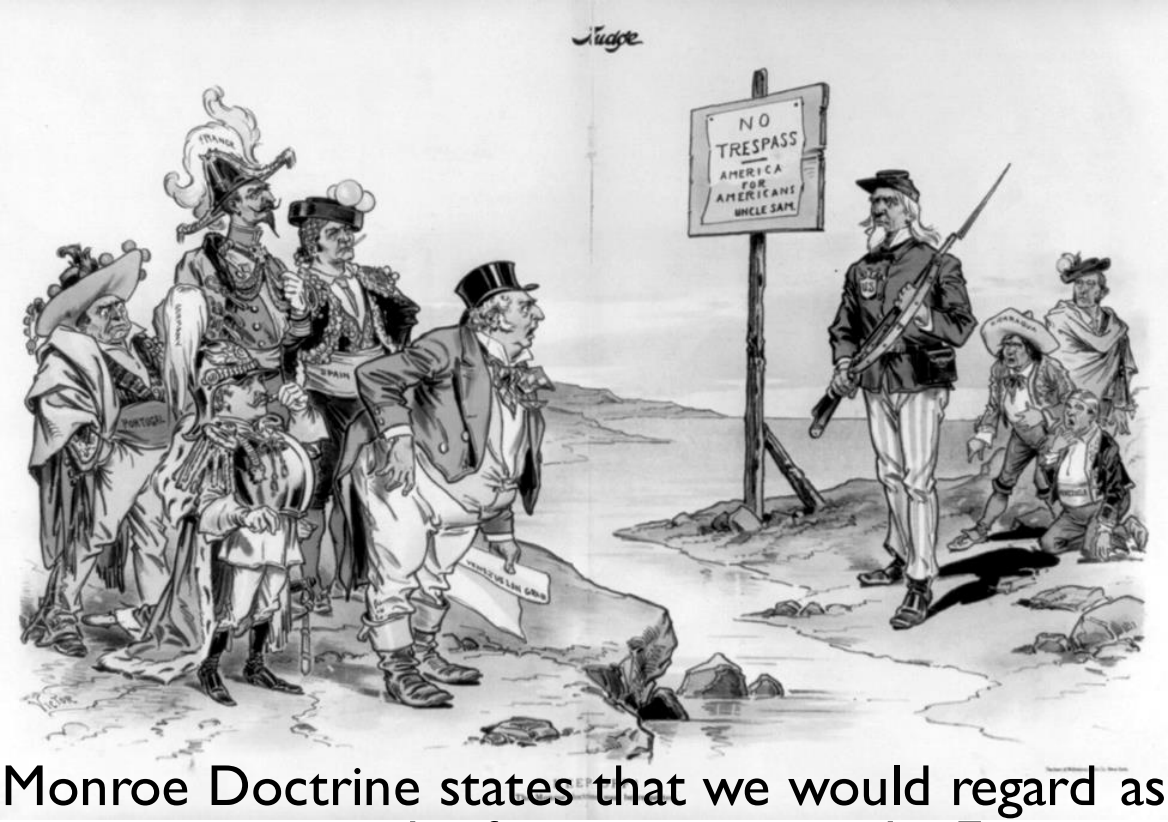
The Monroe Doctrine states:

The American continents – North and South America and the Caribbean – should not be considered for future colonization by any European Powers. Moreover, Monroe seemed to taunt both Spain and Portugal, who he didn't believe had the military power to subjugate any American republics, anyhow!

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823

The *Monroe Doctrine* states
Nations in the Western Hemisphere are inherently different from those of Europe; that is, they are democratic republics by nature rather than monarchies. American intended to allow these republics to develop under our guidance, not under th controlling influence of European nations intent or expanding their colonial powers.

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823

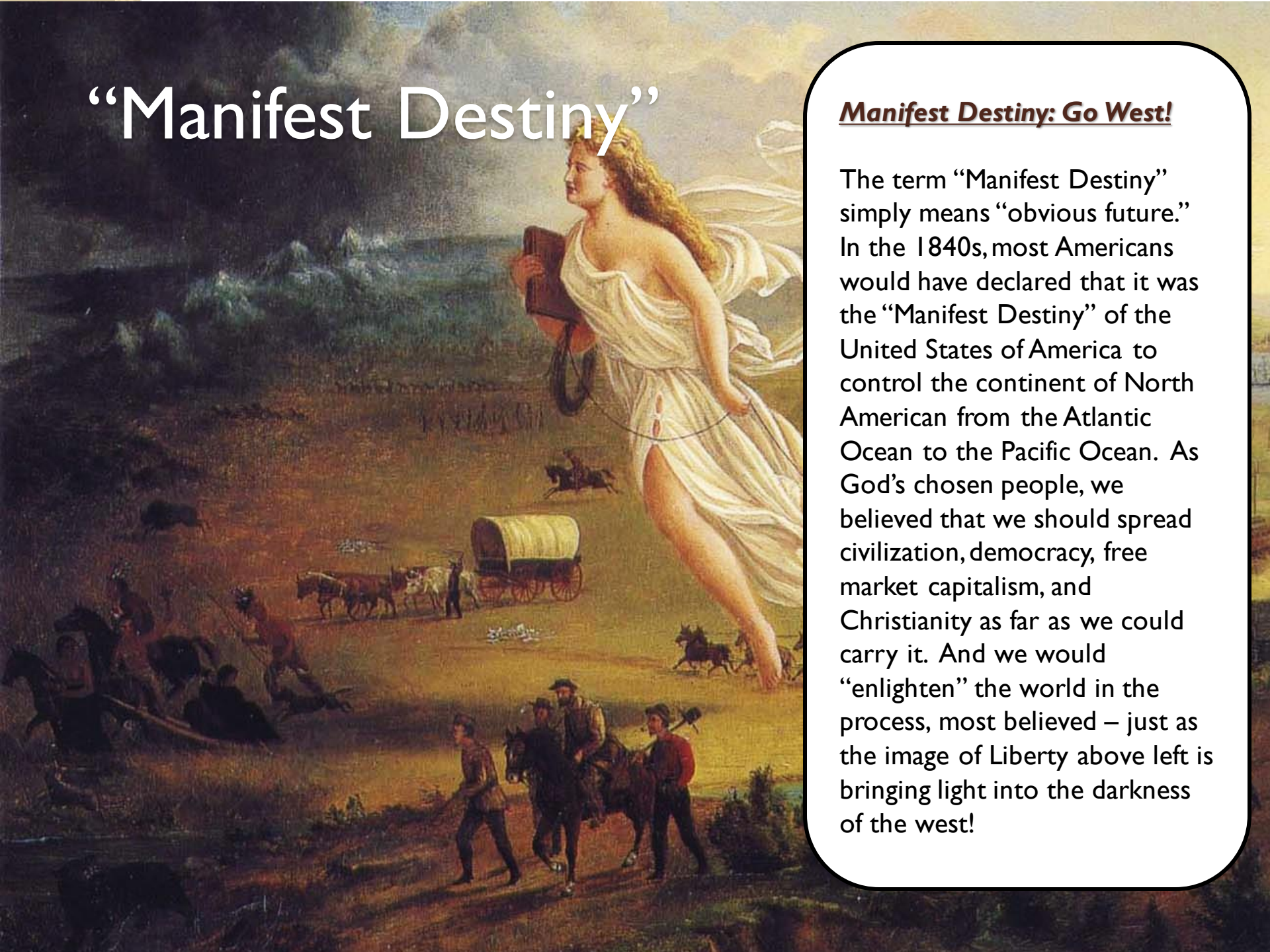


The Monroe Doctrine states that we would regard as a threat to our own peace and safety any attempt by European powers to impose their system on any independent state in the Western Hemisphere. Essentially, we declared that the Western Hemisphere was our little sphere of influence!

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823

The *Monroe Doctrine* states that in exchange for Europeans removing their influence from the emerging democratic republics of the Western Hemisphere, we would not intervene in any of the affairs of Europe. This, or course, was not a change in policy at all. The United States, following the advice of George Washington in his Farewell Address, had never intervened in European affairs. We were too weak militarily to do so anyhow!

"Manifest Destiny"



Manifest Destiny: Go West!

The term "Manifest Destiny" simply means "obvious future." In the 1840s, most Americans would have declared that it was the "Manifest Destiny" of the United States of America to control the continent of North American from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. As God's chosen people, we believed that we should spread civilization, democracy, free market capitalism, and Christianity as far as we could carry it. And we would "enlighten" the world in the process, most believed – just as the image of Liberty above left is bringing light into the darkness of the west!

Americans Moved West Seeking Land and Economic Opportunity…

Americans moved into the West seeking *economic opportunity*. And for most Americans, that meant one thing: *land ownership* for farming. Some laws encouraged orderly settlement of the land:

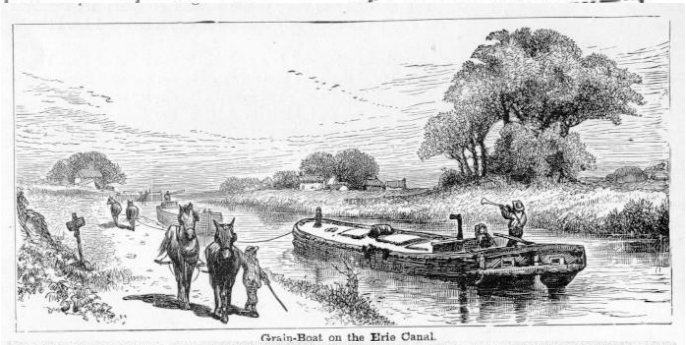
The Northwest Ordinance of 1787

The Homestead Act of 1862

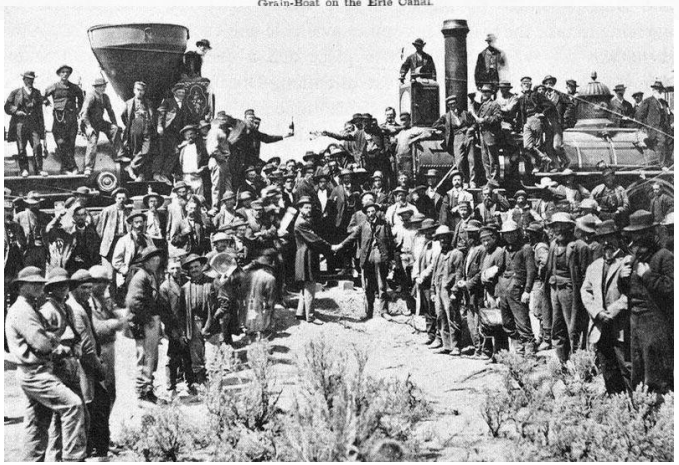
More frequently, however, Americans moved west haphazardly, squatting on the land without paying for it. This was how most of the Ohio River Valley, Texas, and the Oregon Country were settled. One family at a time.

Railroads and Canals lead West

Building roads, canals, and railway systems was one way Americans began to make progress into the West. The National Road, the Erie Canal, and the Transcontinental Railroad were all created to facilitate trade with the West and make it that much easier for people to settle the region for the United States. Every new transportation system was a step closer to our nation's Manifest Destiny.

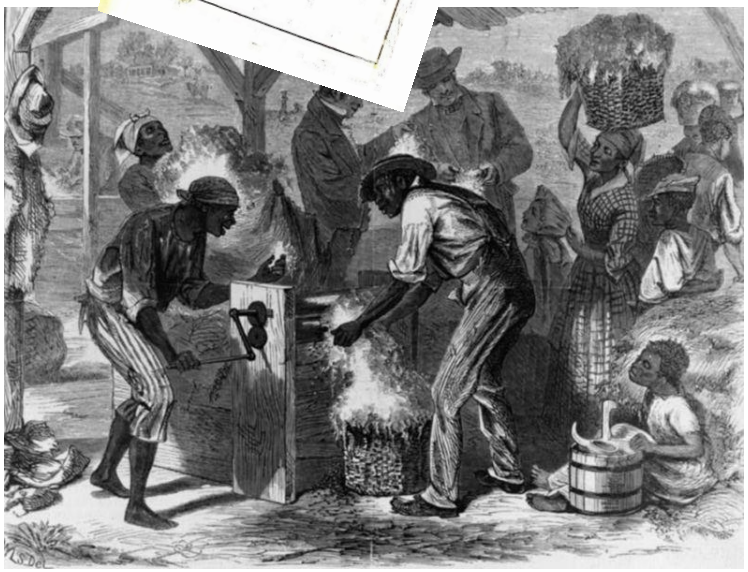


Grain-Boat on the Erie Canal.



The Cotton Gin opens SW Lands

When Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in the 1790s, the cotton industry was in decline. It was too much work, for too little payoff. Once this invention came along, though, many Americans invest in western lands and enslaved labor – the principle needs to create a cotton plantation. Most of the plantations would be established in what we call the "Deep South" today – places like Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas.

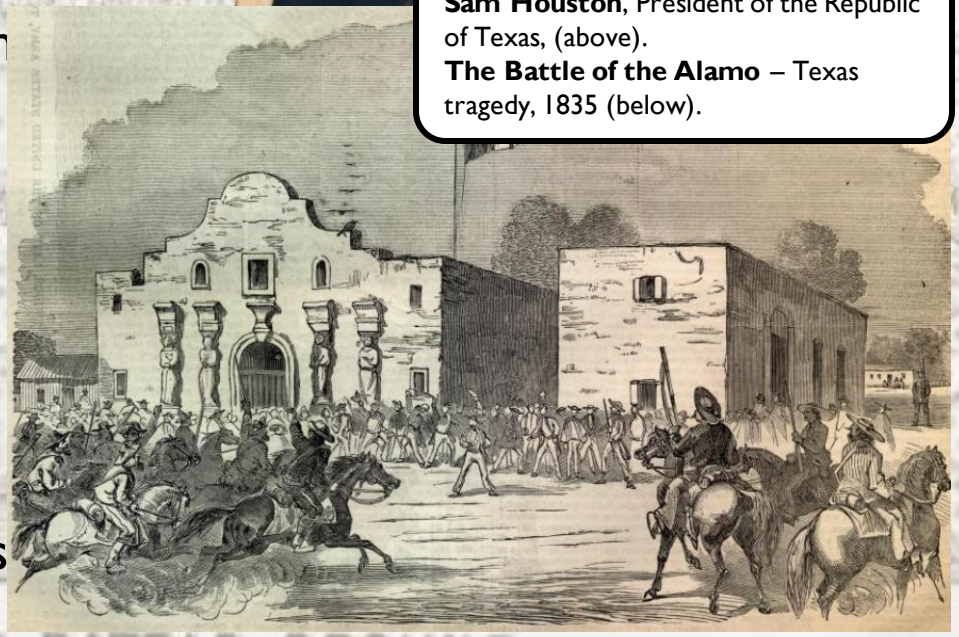


The Removal of Indians

Throughout the 19th Century, Native American societies had been encroached upon and move, one tribe after the next, to the West of the Mississippi River. The Trail of Tears was only the most dramatic example; hundreds of tribes were removed and forced onto reservations in the West.

Texans Fight for Independence

After being invited to Tejas to settle the region for Mexico, Americans living in Texas fought for their independence in the 1830s. After suffering a tragic and total defeat at the Alamo, Texans rallied, captured Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, and won their independence. Sam Houston became the President of the independent republic of Texas. Due to the continuing debate over slavery in America, the Congress refused to annex Texas during the 1830s. In 1845, under John Tyler, the state was annexed. It became a state while James K. Polk was President, and Americans were soon at war with Mexico!

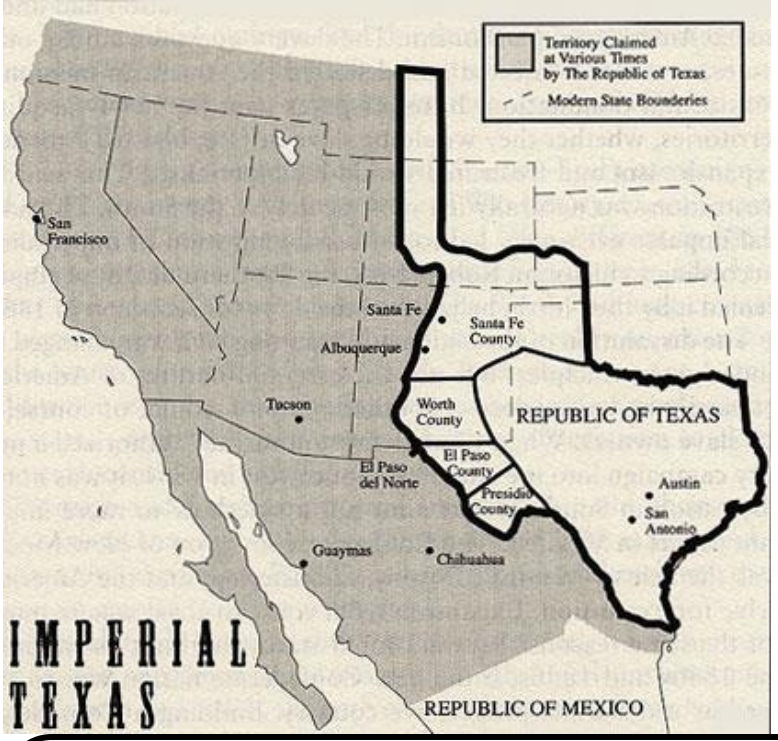


Sam Houston, President of the Republic of Texas, (above).
The Battle of the Alamo – Texas tragedy, 1835 (below).

SAN JACINTO BATTLE-GROUND.

The Annexation of Texas

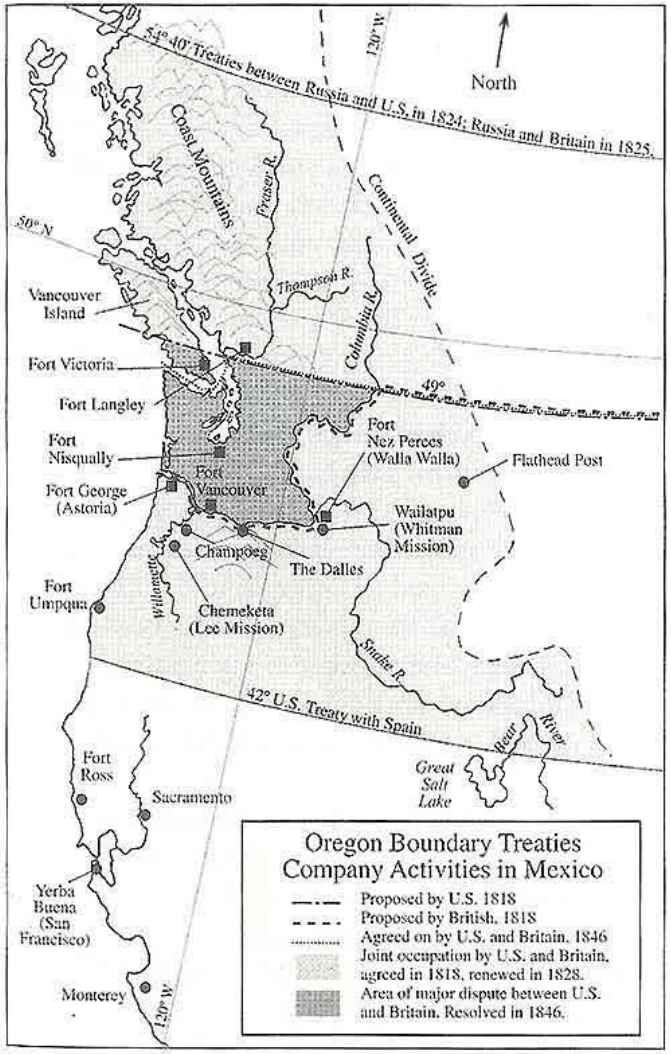
Believing that Santa Anna had been coerced into signing the treaty which gave Texas its independence, Mexico was enraged when the United States annexed Texas. They still considered Tejas their northernmost province. The boundary dispute over where Texas ended – the Nueces River or the Rio Grande – was also a major concern. James K. Polk annexed Texas and was eager to provoke a war with Mexico – a war he was certain Americans would win – because he wanted to take even more territory from our neighbors to the South: California and the Southwest.



Americans took over the "large version" of Texas – which extended South to the Rio Grande and North to present day Wyoming!

"Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!"

When James K. Polk ran for President he ran on the campaign slogan "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!" – suggesting that Britain must cede all of the land in the Oregon Territory or fight against the United States. When he provoke war with Mexico in1846, though, he thought better than to fight two wars simultaneously. The US signed the Oregon Treaty with England, taking the southern portion of the territory – and giving to England the northern portion – present day British Columbia and Vancouver Island.

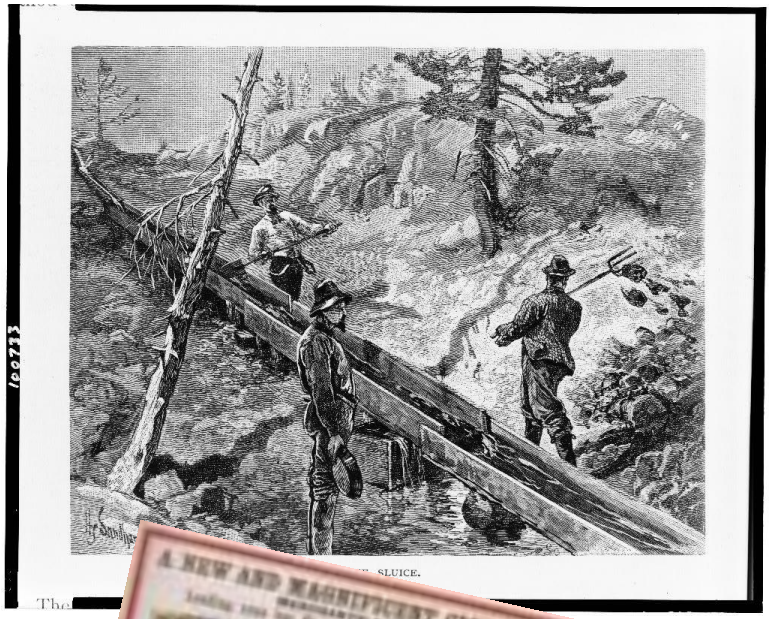


Causes of the Mexican-American War, 1846 - 1848

- The annexation of Texas, and American insistence that the border was at the Rio Grande, not the Nueces River.
- James K. Polk wanted California.
- Aggression on the part of American soldiers, at the insistence of James K. Polk.
- Many Americans believed Polk wanted to add land to create "slave states."

The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

The United States defeated Mexico and took the entire Mexican Cession region – including California, and Texas, and the land that became seven other western states in the United States of America.

The California Gold Rush – 49ers

California was ceded to the United States as a part of the Mexican Cession in 1848. Within months, James Marshall – panning fore gold on the American River at Sutter's Mill – had discovered gold. The gold rush of 1849 was the beginning of rapid changes in the West. By 1850 California was settled and brought into the Union as a free state. The march towards Civil War quickened.